



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**Department of Finance
and Administration**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas Income Tax Returns Due Earlier This Year

LITTLE ROCK, AR—The deadline for filing your 2003 state income tax return has changed. The new filing deadline is midnight, April 15, 2004. This is one month earlier than in previous years. Act 774 of 2003 changed the Arkansas income tax due date to match the federal income tax due date. You can file your return via the Internet, by phone or by mail. Paper returns must be postmarked before midnight, Thursday, April 15, 2004. Corporation income tax returns are now due on March 15th, 2004.

The Act also changed the due date for taxpayers first quarter estimated tax payments from May 15th to April 15th. The estimated payment due April 15, 2004 is the first payment due at the earlier due date. The second quarter is due June 15th, the third quarter is due September 15th, and the fourth quarter is due January 15th, 2005. Corporation estimated payments have also changed, the first quarterly estimate is due by April 15th, the second quarter is due June 15th, the third quarter is due September 15th, and the final estimated payment is due December 15th.

Other changes that affect Arkansas income tax filers for 2003 include a 3% income tax surcharge. The surcharge is calculated on the income tax liability before any credits. The surcharge also applies to residents of Texarkana who are otherwise exempt from Arkansas income tax. For Texarkana residents, the surcharge is computed on the tax liability the taxpayer would have without the special Texarkana exemption. As a security measure, the taxpayer identification label has been changed to remove the taxpayers Social Security Number. This change requires that all taxpayers enter their Social Security Number in the space provided on the tax return. Be sure to sign your return, and attach all W-2 forms and schedules.

For more Arkansas state income tax information visit the DFA web site at www.arkansas.gov/dfa/. There you can download forms, tax tables, and instructions, or learn how to file your state income tax return by mail, or via the Internet. You can also call the Arkansas Taxpayer Assistance Office toll-free (Inside of Arkansas and outside of Pulaski County) at 1-800-882-9275, or at 501-682-1100 for taxpayers inside Pulaski County, or outside of Arkansas.